permit establishment of Export Processing Zones by State Governments or the private/Joint sector. In addition, a centrally sponsored Export Promotion Industrial Park Scheme has also been formulated to assist State Government in the creation of industrial infrastructure for export oriented production.

Liberalising Import of Consumer Items

3521. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to liberalise the import of consumer items and; if so, the details to the proposal;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the likely impact of such a move on indigenous industry?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) The review of Export and Import Policy is a continuing and ongoing process and changes are made therein as and when necessary.

Status of TDA and TFAI Employees After their Merger

3522. SHRI BALBIR SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the status of employees of ex-TDA and ex-TFAI has been integrated in terms of their pay-scales, allowances and designations after the merger of Trade Development Authority (TDA) and Trade Fair Authority of Indian (TFAI) on 1st January, 1992;

(b) if so, how many promotions (after the merger) have been given to ex-TFAI staff during the last two years;

(c) how many promotions (after the merger) have been given to ex-TDA staff during the last two years; and

(d) what are the norms for promotions in ITPO for both ex-TFAI and ex-TDA staff?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) In order to integrate the pay-scales, status and determine the principles of inter-se seniority and other allied issues in respect of the employees of erstwhile TDA and TFAI, a Committee was constituted after the merger of ex-TDA with ex-TFAI through the legal process effected from 1.1.1992. The officers and staff of both the erstwhile organisations are, however, continuing to be governed by their respective pay-scales, allowances and designations.

(b) During the last two years, 94 promotions have been given to ex-TFAI employees as a result of vacancies which arose during the period.

(c) No vacancy has arisen in respect of TDA employees to enable ITPO to promote junior level officers.

(d) Promotions are made on the basis of vacancies available from time to time, as per applicable recruitment and promotion rules for various posts, and based on the recommendations of the DPCs.

Division of Volume of Agricultural Exports

3523. DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question 13 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 25th July, 1994 and state;

(a) how the total volume of agricultural export by India during 1993-94 was divided among Japan, rest of Asia, West Europe, USA and other countries; and

(b) what was the itemwise breakup of such exports?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b). The details of country-wise exports of agricultural commodities and item-wise break up of the same are contained in the Annual number issues of the Foreign Trade Statistics of India